

2015 Key Montana FICMMR Prevention Initiatives

Cascade County –

New Service – After reviewing multiple child abuse and neglect deaths some of the Cascade County FICMMR Team members who also serve on a local Early Childhood Coalition Committee decided in 2015 to focus on child abuse and neglect in the Great Falls community. The Coalition that includes FICMMR Team members decided to build a crisis nursery, respite facility in Great Falls for families who are in crisis and need someone to care for their children for a short period of time (72 hours). This type of facility would prevent parents dropping kids off with undesirable caregivers and provide a safe haven for the children. These types of facilities also provide other supports, such as resourcing, parenting classes to further support parents. The 501c status application is in and the completion date for Toby's House is 2017.

Ravalli County -

Policy – The FICMMR Team partnered with Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) to help close down a dangerous section of the Bitterroot River during peak times of the year –not a popular action in the community. A drowning occurred at this section of the river, a damn site. FICMMR wrote letters of support for the closure, participated in meetings, etc. Additionally, FICMMR assisted FWP, via letters of support, to successfully secure a construction grant to improve the safety of this river section.

Public Education – The Ravalli County FICMMR Team partnered with Ravalli County White Water Search & Rescue for a water safety campaign. Education included proper use of life jackets, demonstration of rope throws, and general water safety which is critical in this community as the Bitterroot River runs right through the town.

Roosevelt County New Service -

New Service – A new service and education was offered to parents/guardians of babies born in Roosevelt County. Free, approved infant cribs from the Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies organization are provided for the first time to all parents/guardians who mail in a voucher for a crib to be redeemed at the Roosevelt County Health Department.

Richland County-

Public Education – A teen died while using her cell phone and driving. The family and community members who responded to the scene did the following:

Family donated a flatbed for the severely damaged truck so it could be displayed around the county in strategic locations and at schools as a powerful deterrent. The younger sister of the teen partnered with EMT scene responders and together created a presentation for multiple schools and community groups about driving and cell phone use.

Silver Bow County-

New Legislation-

Silver Bow County experienced three teen suicides in late 2013 and early 2014 within a 6-week time period. The FICMMR team leader and a newly formed Suicide Prevention Committee worked with the father of one of the teens who died to help sponsor House Bill 374 which passed into law in 2015. HB 374 allows for suicide awareness and prevention training to be made available for every teacher or specialist who applies for certification renewal. Plans are under way to strengthen this bill and make the training mandatory at the next legislative session. The FICMMR team leader also participates on the Suicide Prevention Team.

New Service - Silver Bow County (See reference to New Legislation example listed above):

The Silver Bow Suicide Prevention Team works closely with the father who started a foundation in his son's name. In 2015, the team helped organize the First Annual Butte Out of the Darkness Walk that funds suicide prevention education. The team also distributes gun locks provided by the foundation. The foundation also awarded their first 3 scholarships in 2015 to help high school graduating seniors as they take their next steps in life. The Silver Bow County FICMMR leader serves as a key member on the newly formed Suicide Prevention Team that was formed in 2014.